

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMCONSUL ZAGREB  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 1555

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG TECH YO MPOL MNUC PARM  
SUBJ: GEN. KUKOC INTERVIEW

1. SUMMARY: MATTERS NUCLEAR HAVE RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE  
ATTENTION IN YUGOSLAV PRESS RECENTLY. LATEST IS INTERVIEW  
IN NIN OF LCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER COL. GEN. KUKOC  
WHOSE DISCUSSION OF YUGOSLAV DEFENSE POLICY GETS INTO  
NUCLEAR QUESTION BY REITERATING YUGOSLAV OPPOSITION TO  
GREAT POWERS NUCLEAR MONOPOLIZING AND STATING THAT OUTSIDE  
FACTORS WILL DETERMINE WHETHER YUGOSLAVIA WILL PRODUCE A  
BOMB. WE BELIEVE NUCLEAR REFERENCES ARE RELATED MORE TO  
GENERAL YUGOSLAV UNHAPPINESS WITH FAILURE OF NUCLEAR POWERS  
TO HONOR THEIR PART OF NPT AND POSSIBLY TO KRSKO AS SPECIFIC  
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EXAMPLE OF THIS THAN TO ANY DESIRE OR INTENT TO DEVELOP  
NUCLEAR WEAPONS. KUKOC COVERS MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF  
YUGOSLAV DEFENSE POLICY. SOVIETS COME IN FOR SOME IMPLIED  
CRITICISM, BUT AS USUAL "AGGRESSION" AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA IS  
SEEN AS POSSIBLY EMANATING FROM ANY DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. NY TIMES CORRESPONDENT MALCOLM BROWNE'S ARTICLE DATE-

LINED MARCH 11 ON NIN INTERVIEW WITH COL. GEN. KUKOC STRESSES KUKOC'S STATEMENT , "IT DEPENDS LEAST UPON US WHETHER YUGOSLAVIA WILL BE OBLIGED TO CONSIDER THE ATOMIC BOMB OR EVEN TO BEGIN ITS PRODUCTION." WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS ANY DEPARTURE BY GOY OFFICIALS ON YUGOSLAVIA'S NUCLEAR POLICY. KUKOC'S INTERVIEW IN MARCH 13 ISSUE OF NIN IS ENTITLED "THE MANNER IN WHICH WE ARE GOING TO DEFEND OURSELVES". IT GENERALLY REVIEWS CURRENT YUGOSLAV DEFENSE POLICY. ON NUCLEAR QUESTION KUKOC SAYS THAT YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT HAVE A BOMB, IS INTERESTED IN "USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES", AND THEREFORE HAS BEEN ADVOCATING AGAINST MONOPOLY WHICH NUCLEAR POWERS "ARE SEEKING TO ESTABLISH". AFTER STATING THAT YUGOSLAVIA ITSELF IS THE LEAST DETERMINING FACTOR ON WHETHER IT WILL CONSTRUCT A BOMB, HE ADDS THAT YUGOSLAVS "REMAIN RESOLUTE CHAMPIONS OF THE POLICY OF DIS-ARMAMENT, BUT OF DISARMAMENT OF ALL."

3. REFERENCE TO YUGOSLAV DEVELOPMENT OF "A POWERFUL INDUSTRIAL-TECHNOLOGICAL-RESEARCH CAPACITY, WHICH BASICALLY MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR ARMED FORCES" IS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEED TO POSSESS A SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC DEFENSE INDUSTRY. IN THIS REGARD HE MENTIONS AS EXAMPLE "LATEST WARS IN THE MIDDLE EAST" TO SHOW THAT SUCCESS "IS CONDITIONED BY THE BEHAVIOR OF THE COUNTRY ON WHICH IT RELIES FOR ITS ARMAMENT".

4. THE AFOREMENTIONED IS LIKELY A REFERENCE TO YUGOSLAVIA'S CONTINUING DEPENDENCE ON MILITARY SALES FROM THE SOVIET UNION (AND THE POSSIBLE DANGERS THEREOF). IN A CLEARER REFERENCE  
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TO HE SOVIET UNION, KUKOC NOTES EARLY IN THE ARTICLE THAT THE 1968 EVENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA MADE THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE YUGOSLAV ALL PEOPLES DEFENSE CONCEPT "MORE DYNAMIC". ASKED WHETHER AN ARMED ATTACK ON YUGOSLAVIA WOULD LEAD TO A NEW WORLD CONFLICT, KUKOC RESPONDED "MOST PROBABLY" BECAUSE IT WOULD UPSET "THE EXISTING EQUILIBRIUM." HE STATES THAT THE BALKANS, "AN AREA IN WHICH INTER-BLOC BORDERS ARE NOT CLEARLY AND STRICTLY OUTLINED", IS PERMANENTLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO "ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES."

5. COMMENT: KUKOC IS THE ONLY MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE ON THE 12-MEMBER LCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE DOES NOT SURFACE PUBLICLY OFTEN. WE BELIEVE HIS STATEMENT IS DIRECTED IN SOME PART AT PUTTING PRESSURE ON NUCLEAR POWERS TO SLOW NUCLEAR ARMS RACE WHICH GOY PERCEIVES AS SERIOUS THREAT AND TO SHARE THEIR NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WITH NON-NUCLEAR STATES, E.G. KRSKO. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THEIR THREAT AT NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE TO RECONSIDER THEIR ADHERENCE IF NUCLEAR POWERS' POLICIES DID NOT CHANGE. WE RECALL ALSO THAT

KARDELJ TOLD ARMITAGE AND CHARGE THAT YUGOSLAVIA WAS PREPARED TO GO IT ALONE IN THE NUCLEAR REALM IF A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED AND, SIMILARLY, FSFA DISARMAMENT COUNSELOR KRIVOKAPIC TOLD POL COUNS AND SCIATT THAT YUGOSLAVIA WAS PREPARED TO LOOK TO INDIA OR PRC FOR NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE. IN ANY EVENT YUGOSLAVS MAY BE CONTINUING TO PRESENT THEIR CASE ON NPT IN GENERAL AND KRSKO IN PARTICULAR IN ALL SHAPES. YORK

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